

August

Magic Lantern Society
US and Canada

NEWS 2015



Be Sure to LOOK for those Buttons and roll-over effects

Click on These Announcement Slides from 1910

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The Hotel is the Best Western Landmark Hotel, 2601 Severn, Metairie, LA 70002. It is about 1/2 way between the Airport & New Orleans/French Quarter (a western suburb of New Orleans). The Hotel will offer the convention rates for 3-4 days before to 3-4 days after the convention for those that want to spend more time on their vacation to enjoy the New Orleans area & food. More details about the Hotel rates etc. will be send after things are confirmed with the Hotel in the coming months.

Steve Barnes
2016 Convention Chair
thesteve4@yahoo.com

Movie Theater Etiquette through Lantern Slides



<http://adashofcinema.com/tag/lantern-slides/>

In Loving Memory of Ralph Shape

Ralph was a long standing member of the Magic Lantern Society of the United States and Canada, who we naturally turned to for his steady and quiet leadership over the years. Those of us in the Northwest enjoyed being hosted by Ralph and Judie each year at their house on the lake for the last 15 years, enjoying the company of friends and our joint interest in the Magic Lantern. He and Judie always supported our local group, joining us for every meeting and supporting us when one of us gave a local show.

I believe that Ralph enjoyed all aspects of the Magic Lantern - the technology, the art, the history, and the showmanship. He has a fine collection of lanterns and slides, with his slide collection s naturally focusing on aviation and on military history.



Some of Ralph's lantern collection displayed at gathering after memorial service

Ralph's contributions to the Society were many -

- Ralph and Judie attended every one of our biennial conventions since he joined the Society and he helped organize several of them, often taking on the difficult job of Program Director – think herding cats!
- Secretary-Treasurer for 4 years.
- President for 4 years, writing the “President’s Corner” column faithfully for 17 consecutive issues of the Gazette.
- Author of several articles for the Magic Lantern Gazette, MLS of US and Canada convention reports, and reports from several British Conventions, which he and Judie attended.
- Presented at conventions, including winning the Honorable Damer E. Waddington Red Cabbage Award in 2000 at the Hollywood Convention with “The Magic Lantern Goes to War.” Anyone that was there can never forget the multiple hat changes as Ralph changed historical characters more times than I could count.

If you go back and read Ralph’s President’s Corner columns, he always shared a story, thanked contributors, and usually called for action on our part, as a good leader should. I was particularly taken re-reading his column of March 2002, just before the Rochester Convention, in those dark days just a few months after the 9/11 tragedy when some members expressed concern over air travel and possibly not attending our 10th Convention, Ralph offered both reassurance to members and support for our County’s strengths.

We’ll all of us remember the story of his first lantern purchase – “some have it, some don’t,” which became legendary. (See story next page)

And we will miss his wry sense of humor, that look in his eyes when he knew - that you knew - his subtle joke. We miss his leadership, his friendship, and his humor very, very much.

I’d like to close this remembrance as Ralph always closed his President’s Corner - May your lantern shine brightly throughout the year - and as he once added - and may all your slides be right side up.

Ron Easterday
President

Memorials in remembrance to Ralph may be made to the Seattle Museum of Flight, museumofflight.org

Obituary:

Ralph Moritz Shape was born on Easter Sunday, April 12, 1936 in Seattle, Washington to parents John and Esther Shape. He passed away Sunday, June 21st, 2015.

Graduated from Franklin High School and the University of Washington. He worked at Boeing Texas and flight school in the US Air Force. Following eight years of military service, he continued his love of flying with Pan American, flying all over the world for 25 years. That

continued next page

In Loving Memory of Ralph Shape continued

ONE OF THE MANY LEGACIES OF RALPH SHAPE

included 7 years in Berlin, Germany witnessing the fall of the wall and the collapse of the Soviet Union. With the demise of Pan Am he continued his flying, now, with Delta Airlines.

They built their home at Angle Lake where they could see airplanes take off and land and could walk to the airport. Following retirement Ralph ran for SeaTac City Council and served in that capacity for eight years which included two as Mayor. Travel stayed on the agenda as well as some winter time spent in Arizona.

Ralph is survived by his wife of 56 years Judie; son Martin of Puyallup, daughter and son-in-law Lori and Michael Spencer, two terrific grandchildren, Stefany and David; brother and sister-in-law John and Donna Shape; sister Ann Morrison; and his best friend KuKu.

Interment will be at Washington Memorial Park in SeaTac. In lieu of flowers, donations are suggested to the Museum of Flight or to your favorite charity.

Ralph Shape was a serious man, a man of few words. It was said at his memorial that he didn't talk much, but when he did people listened because what he said was worth listening to.

Magic Lantern Society members knew the other side of Ralph—the fun loving guy with a great sense of humor. Here is the story he told as best as I can remember that introduced us to Ralph's dry humor:

He and Judie were traveling in Germany and came upon a market. Strolling down the pitches he spied a strange object sitting on the shelf in the back of the booth. He pointed to it and asked to see it.



The man handed it to him and told him it was a rare magic lantern. (It was one of the common Ernst Plank child's projector most of us have.

However, this projector was a bit rare. It only had three legs. When Ralph questioned the man as to why this was, the dealer replied that it was made that way. He held up a small block of wood and said that this particular lantern came with a "leveling block" in case you were using it on a slanted surface.

Ralph was interested but enquired, "Do all of these magic lanterns have three legs and a leveling block?"

The man replied, "Well, some do and some don't." Ralph bought the lantern, his first of many.

That phrase, "Some do and some don't," became part of the language of the US and Canada Magic Lantern Society's lexicon. When discussing a piece of equipment and whether it was complete or not someone would often say, "Well it might be missing such and such but not all lanterns have that. Some do and some don't."

We will all miss Ralph terribly, because he did have it. He had it all.

Submitted with love, Bob and Sue Hall.





History and Information About Dissolving Views

From Encyclopaedia of the Magic Lantern, by The magic Lantern Society

The fact that an image could disappear and be quickly replaced by another added to the mystery. In the early 19th century, these changes of scene became known as *dissolvent views, and then dissolving views. Early exponents of the technique in London and provincial British theatres during the 1820s were Henry, *Childe and *Philipsthal. Two lanterns were required for a true dissolving view effect. This enabled one scene to be gradually faded out, while at the same time another was gradually faded in, giving the effect of a scene slowly changing before the eyes of the spectator. During the second quarter of the 19th century this technique was widely used, using a pair of lanterns side-by-side (see DOUBLE LANTERNS). Later, particularly after the widespread adoption of limelight illuminants, biunial lanterns (one unit on top of another) were used, and eventually triple lanterns or triunials.

From Eric Stott

Larry- I have been going through my large format slides & find I have a lot of incomplete sets, mainly dissolving sets of 2 to 4 slides. I'm certain that other members have the same situation- would it be useful to set up a list of who has incomplete slides so people could match them up? I'd suggest confining it to large format slides and pairs or very small sets at first. I could keep a list, probably make it up as a PDF that could be circulated and kept updated.

Eric,-Great idea! I would like to start a monthly page or two in the news letter. Starting with some history of dissolving sets, images of sets, want or trade column and your list of sets.
Larry

The first dissolving views, in the 1820s-30s, were hand-painted. Sometimes images were unrelated, but with dissolving pairs of related images subtle and surprising effects could be presented. A daytime scene could mix slowly into the identical scene at night, the changes so imperceptible that the coming of evening appeared entirely natural. In some cases, particularly in later years where a triunial was used, it was possible to add further effects; for example, the windows in a building could gradually become illuminated by using a slide that featured only the glowing windows and was otherwise entirely black.

Another popular dissolving view subject was the changing of the seasons, with further enhancements such as the addition of falling snow from a *snow-effect slide. Hand-painted dissolves/effects (water mill, storm at sea, destruction of Pompeii etc.) were very popular through to the 1880s after which photographic subjects became widespread.

continued next page



The Place of Sales/Trades/Wants

Slides From Eric Stott

Here are what I have I'd like to complete these pairs and sets but would be open to trading



Two slides of three: "Their First Meeting",



"The Declaration"

Looking to Buy
or Trade

(missing) "Five Years Later"

Looking to Buy
or Trade

"The Onconvenience of Single Life"



"The Rael Convaniences"

I'm sure that there are people out there who would (for example) like "The Onconvaniences of single life" to pair with "The rael convaniences of marriage"

Eric Stott

continued next page

Help Us Expand on the List of



- Be a Contributor
- Need a missing slide of a dissolve set?
- Share titles, images of your sets
- What Will You Contribute?
- Contributions Needed

Here is Your Opportunity to contribute

Please share any information you have about dissolve sets and send to

LARRY or ERIC



The Place of Sales/Trades/Wants



Looking to Buy
or Trade

The first slide of a pair—"The Morning Kiss" - the second would be "The Evening Prayer"



Looking to Buy
or Trade



An insert slide for a dissolve-
"The American Soldier's
Dream"



Looking to Buy
or Trade

"Fort Sumter in Peacetime-
Daylight" There would be a
moonlight view,
there is also a pair for Fort
Sumter in Wartime. (I have a
duplicate
of this slide to trade)

**More to be
listed next
month**

Another Site with Images and Information about Dissolving Views



Dissolving views (part 1)

This part is devoted to dissolving views. In this section the importance of the slides is stressed. The slides are shown in a way that they can be used as a means of instruction. The slides are shown in a way that they can be used as a means of instruction. The slides are shown in a way that they can be used as a means of instruction.

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Springtime with flowers blooming



Autumn with leaves falling

http://www.luikerwaal.com/newframe_uk.htm?adaman-deve1_uk.htm

Inquiry

From the Web Site

From: Alexandra DeAngelis

amd2257@columbia.edu

I am a student of the history of art at Columbia University in New York City and am undertaking a five week project for a course where we must discover the provenance and attempt to evaluate the authenticity of works of art in the university's collection. The painting I am researching is a portrait of Alfred Lord Tennyson, based on the 1859 work by GF Watts.

It is most curious, as it is painted in oils on a 5x4" pane of glass. I believe that it was painted on either a glass photo negative or on a lantern slide. However, a piece of newspaper from 1878 is affixed to the reverse side and, therefore, no light can shine through.

I was wondering if I could send you photographs of the painting to see if you have seen this type of painting in oils on lantern slides before. Also, I believe the edges of the glass are green, if that would aid you in anyway. It would greatly help narrow down my research categories.

Thank you,
Alexandra DeAngelis

Dear Ms DeAngelis

Many earlier magic lantern slides were hand painted, so the technique is not unusual, however, many colours of oil paint are not translucent so cannot be used for lantern slide creation. The constituent parts are more along the lines of ink rather than oil paint as such. Glass painting was done as decorative panels for mounting in furniture etc too, and you may have one of those. Conventional lantern slides are either 3.25" x 3.25" or 3.25" x 4", but other sizes were also made for special purpose

Please do send a picture of the item. We may be able to shed further light on the matter.

David Evans

Tennyson Portrait on Glass



Dear Mr Evans,

Thank you for your response. The glass has been painted over on the edges, but I have attached photographs to see if you are able to recognize the size and thickness of the glass.

Sincerely,
Alexandra DeAngelis

Dear Ms DeAngelis

I am sure this is not a lantern slide. Apart from the size being odd, the density of the oil paint used would make it virtually impossible for light to be transmitted through it. It might be worth researching miniature paintings on glass, as this was a procedure quite distinct from the usual artists' media and might yield useful results. It looks to be a fine painting and worth researching. It may have been intended as a wall decoration and may have had a frame at one time.

I'm sorry we can't be of any more assistance, but wish you luck in your researches.

Sincerely
David Evans

Dear Mr. Evans,

You were a great help: eliminating possibilities is incredibly important. The painting does have a frame and I am trying to figure out why it was painted on glass. Lantern slides and photographic negatives were the first uses that came to mind, so I had to explore them first.

Thank you so much for all your help.

Sincerely,
Alexandra DeAngelis



**Looking for
a Coming
Attraction
Slide for**

**The Devil
and Miss Jones
Jean Arthur – 1941**

Thanks!
From **Ron Easterday**



From: Jean Madden

Magic Lantern Slide of My Fourth Great-grandFather

Hello, I am an amateur genealogist, and I have found a magic lantern slide of my fourth great-grandfather on eBay. I had no idea that this technology even existed, and of course I am just fascinated! I would like to find some modern way to display this slide, but it seems no modern versions of the magic lantern exist. Is this true?

From David Evans

Good find! The magic lantern was first introduced toward the end of the 17th century, probably invented in Holland, though sketches of its ancestors appeared in science books back to the time of Da Vinci. Its heyday was the 19th century, when large numbers of hand painted slides were produced and later when photography was becoming popular, huge numbers of photographic slides were then produced and were continued into the 1930s. After that slides were produced in 35mm format and the magic lantern was replaced by the slide projector.

Magic Lantern Slide Find

It is basically true that there are no new versions of the magic lantern as such, but there are lots of lanterns from the 1920s, 30s and even 40s available for modest prices.

In your situation it might be more appropriate to have the slide scanned and printed as a photograph?

Our web site has many links to the history of lanterns and slides and you should be able to find a suitable lantern projector on eBay should you so desire.

If we can help further do contact me again.

David Evans

From: Jean Madden

Thank you, David, for taking the time to reply. I think I will have prints made from the magic lantern slide, and that alone will be a big treat.

Jean

A Site Showing Lantern Slide Use to View History

By Michael Carroll

October 17, 2014

[Michael travels back in time through slides of Philadelphia and beyond, glimpsing the history that lies beneath our familiar cityscape and discovering a rich trove of knowledge available to anyone. — the artblog editors]



1914 lantern slide projector. Photo courtesy of the Wagner Free Institute of Science.

<http://www.theartblog.org/2014/10/shedding-light-on-phillys-archives-the-2nd-annual-philadelphia-lantern-slide-salon/>



Newton Magic Lantern Problem

I was left a Newton & Co, Wigmore St London magic lantern (probably 1913-1920) by my mother, with beautiful colored slides of well known English nursery rhymes, which I want to share with my American granddaughters. However, I cannot establish a satisfactory focal length and the slides project hazy. Thanks for any advice.

Regards,

Noel Baker Bakeryork@aol.com

Douglas Hausknecht

Dear Mr. Baker:

I am by no means an expert on lanterns. I have dabbled for some years with lanterns and a variety of other audio-visual equipment.

When I've had difficulty getting focus, it has usually been due to

1. Missing lens
2. A lens slightly out of its proper holder so it seems to focus but can't get as close (or as far) from its designed position
3. Someone substituted the wrong lens
4. Once, there was a lens cover that was flush with the body and we didn't notice that it was merely a cover

Just some thoughts. I noted your letter in the most recent Magic Lantern Society newsletter.

Doug

Douglas Hausknecht, Ph.D.

Donation of Langenheim Slide of the Smithsonian Castle Under Construction



From Tom Rall

I recently had the pleasure of donating one of the gems of my collection--a Langenheim slide of the Smithsonian Castle under construction--to the museum. It turns out to be the earliest known photograph and the curator is planning an August 10 opening of a small exhibition devoted to its discovery.

From Richard Stamm

Paula and I met today to go over our draft of the exhibit text and it occurred to us that many in our audience might not know what a Magic Lantern looked like. I have found several images online, but I am no expert to be sure and wondered if you have or could direct us to an image of a Magic Lantern of the right vintage for the Castle slide which we could use on the panel.

Richard Stamm
Curator, Smithsonian Institution Castle
Collection
Washington, DC 20013-7012

From David Evans

Hi Tom, Larry

There appears to be little evidence that the limelight was commonly used for lantern illumination in the 1850s. It was however used in Cooper and Cary's Hydro-oxygen microscope. A hand-bill dated (approximately) February 1833 in the Guildhall Library in London states: "By this instrument, is shown, amongst many beautiful and interesting objects, a drop of water magnified 500,000 times and occupying a surface of 132 square feet..." is cited by Hermann Hecht (Pre-Cinema History), article 145A.

Hecht (article 169) also refers to dissolving views at the Royal Polytechnic Institution in 1843, mentioning that "The size of the screen used at the Polytechnic was 648 square feet, it was 35 feet away from the lanterns which were constructed by Cary. The illustration (in The Illustrated Polytechnic Review and weekly Record of Science, the Arts and Literature published on 11th February 1843 by Henry Renshaw) is of one of these lanterns; it has a very simple limelight illuminant."

Henry Mayhew, writing a letter about "Labour and the Poor" in the Morning Chronicle for 28th February 1850 mentions "... the question arose as to introducing views with the limelight, but the paintings in the lantern were too then (1840s) too coarse, for the light brought them out in all their coarseness. Every defect was shown up, glaringly, you may say. That brought in better paintings - of course at a greater cost. The Polytechnic has brought the limelight for this purpose to great perfection." (Hecht article 202F)

Negretti & Zambra's catalogue of 1859 mentions oxy-hydrogen illuminants, but does not specifically state that they were for use in magic lanterns. (Hecht article 224)

A A Wood (of E G Wood, 74 Cheapside, London) , writing in 1875, refers to the invention of the lime light, mistakenly crediting it to Lieut. Drummond in 1826, and says that it was for some time used for light-house purposes, "but of recent years it has chiefly been utilized with the magic or optical lantern."

Most probably the illuminant used around the 1850s would have been the Argand lamp.

I hope this helps a little bit!

Regards
David Evans

From Tom Rall

Thanks for the research, David! With help from Jack and the SI research we've determined that in U.S. 1850, the most probable illuminant was oil. Jack is corresponding with them on providing a suitable photograph of a period lantern. He dated development of limelight to the 1820s, so clearly, confirmed by your research, it was possible, but not probable, that limelight was a 1850 illuminant!

A Big Thank You to the following:

Ron Easterday
David Evans
Bob and Sue Hall
Douglas Hausknecht
Tom Rall
Eric Stott
Kentwood Wells

for contributing to this month's issue.

Now it's your turn to share!

Do you have a favorite site or a collection of images you would like to share with the rest of the society?

If your answer is yes! Send site information or your images to Larry and they will be shared in the next E-pub newsletter.

E-mail Larry



COMING SOON

GROUP NW

August Meeting

Noon August 16 Sunday

Bob and Sue Halls
Gig Harbor, WA 98335



2014 Gazette Issues Online

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Library & Information Access

Magic Lantern Gazette

2014

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From Kentwood Wells

The 2014 issues of The Magic Lantern Gazette are now posted on the San Diego State University library website (<http://library.sdsu.edu/scua/online-materials/magic-lantern-pubs>). The issues include several heavily illustrated articles in which images that appeared in black and white in the printed version are now in full color.

Any Questions please contact
Kentwood D. Wells
Editor, The Magic Lantern Gazette

kentwood.wells@uconn.edu